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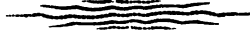


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**LETTERS AND MEMORANDA**

**OF**

***Ehwood Dean.***



**WCL DUPLICATE**

***Published by direction of the Meeting for  
Sufferings of  
Ohio Yearly Meeting***

**1909**

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*William L. Ashton*  
*1940*

### MINUTE

**AT a meeting for Sufferings of Ohio  
Yearly Meeting, Held Ninth Month, 24th, 1909.**

**The Committee entrusted with the care of  
the letters and memoranda of our late friend,  
Elwood Dean, were now directed to have them  
printed and deposited with the Book Commit-  
tee for distribution.**

**Taken from the minutes.**

**WILLIAM L. ASHTON, Clerk**

## ELWOOD DEAN

Although there are many narratives of the lives and labors of departed worthies, for the encouragement of those who are endeavoring to walk in the straight and narrow way, the hope has arisen that some account of the upright life of our late friend, Elwood Dean, and his obedience to manifest duty, might stimulate others to persevere in the work of righteousness.

The books containing the early records of Elwood Dean's family having been destroyed by fire, there seems to be but few dates and facts relative to his early history obtainable, and such was the low esteem with which he regarded himself, that he left no record of his long and useful life, except that contained in letters, most of which were written while on religious visits. An attempt has been made to collect a part of this correspondence, and some of the memoranda that have been preserved concerning him, to which is added letters of concerned friends addressed to him.

He was born Sixth Month 11th, 1816, being the seventh in a family of nine children born to Jonathan R. and Hannah Tuthill Dean. His parents were members of the Society of



Friends, and Elwood was reared under that influence. At the setting up of Plymouth Monthly Meeting, in Washington County, Ohio, in 1850, he and his wife Elizabeth appear as members of that meeting. Four years later she was appointed to the station of Elder, and in Seventh Month, 1855, Elwood was acknowledged as a Minister by the Monthly Meeting. For more than thirty-five years he was enabled through Divine mercy to proclaim the glad tidings of the Gospel. During almost this entire period, the Society was disturbed by those seeking to introduce a modified Quakerism. Given a clear insight into these things Elwood strove, as ability was given him, to incite his Friends to faithfulness to ancient principles, being willing to leave his home many times to visit his brethren in different parts of the country, spending and being spent in that service, the reward of which is peace.

He obtained his first minute for religious service in Twelfth Month, 1857, liberating him to attend some of the Quarterly Meetings belonging to Ohio Yearly Meeting. After this he was similarly engaged at various times, but until the year, 1875, there is no connected record. In the Eleventh Month of that year he was again liberated, "To visit all the meetings belonging to Ohio Yearly Meeting, and to appoint some meetings amongst those not of our Society."

On setting out on this journey, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, the following

memoranda appear in her handwriting:

"Twelfth Month 26th.—To-day we attended our own meeting. D. and H. Mott were there. Soon after the meeting was settled, H. appeared in a lively testimony, exhorting us to more earnestness and diligence to make our calling and election sure. My dear Elwood followed, saying that, although he felt himself a child, comparatively speaking, in religious experience, he could adopt the language of one formerly, who said that he had gone amongst them preaching the Gospel according to his measure for nearly thirty years. He had coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel—'Yea, ye yourselves know that these hands have ministered unto my necessities,' and to those that were dependent upon me, and I have sought not yours but you, adding, that now he felt that he was going to be separated from them in person, but not in spirit, then quoted the language: 'For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.' He said he would be willing to go to the ends of the earth to publish the glad tidings of the gospel. D. M. then appeared in solemn supplication. It was a remarkably favored meeting, for which I trust we felt truly thankful not expecting soon to have another opportunity of mingling with our home friends.

"29th. — Attended Pennsville meeting

which proved a very relieving season to my dear Elwood. A part of what he said was as follows: 'Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, resting in carnal security in an empty profession of religion. The good seed has been sown in every heart, yet the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things, entering in, choke the word so that fruit is not brought to perfection.' A searching testimony then followed to those who are buried in the earth, trusting in a name to live, whilst they are dead in trespasses and sins, carelessly floating along the stream of time, and if they did not become aroused to a sense of danger would be lost. All were exhorted to consider the shortness and uncertainty of time and to double their diligence to make their calling and election sure, before being called hence to be seen of men no more.

"30th.—Attended Hopewell meeting, public notice having been given. The meeting was silent, and afterwards D. H. said he was glad we had been with them, as it would settle a matter that had been in dispute, some having said that 'Elwood Dean could preach whenever he pleased' and added, he did not wonder the Master gave him nothing to say.

"Fifth Month 21st, 1876.—This morning we were a little refreshed by the evidence being renewed that we were not forsaken, but are still under the watchful care and protection of the unslumbering Shepherd of Israel.

After a chapter was read, E. remarked that it was a practice he always rejoiced to find in any family, that of sitting down at least once in the day to read a chapter in the Bible; to have our minds retired before the Lord, that our spiritual strength may be renewed and that we may journey forward toward the land of rest and peace. He said he was not a man of war, but a man of peace, and lived as such amongst his neighbors. He never had a lawsuit and never had an arbitration or trouble in that way, but in the year, 1847, was brought low by sickness, near to the gates of death, and when brought face to face with eternity saw that it was an awful thing to die, and to be launched into eternity, prepared or unprepared. He was then made willing to enter into covenant with the Lord, to serve Him and obey Him and endeavor to do His will, if He would be pleased to spare him a little longer here below. Since that time he had endeavored to keep this covenant, and to walk in His counsel in the main, yet, at times, through disobedience to manifest duty, he had been brought into deep suffering, and had thereby learned obedience, regardless of the opinions of men; for, saith the Apostle, 'If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.'

"Sixth Month 14th.—Attended Coal Creek meeting, wherein E. was favored to speak relievingly to his own mind, commencing with the text, 'Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart

from it.' He then proceeded to set forth the necessity of parents themselves coming under the leavening influence of the Holy Spirit in their own minds, whereby they would be enabled to train up the dear children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, believing that if parents were thus concerned, they would feel it a duty to collect their families at least once in the day, and read a portion of the Holy Scriptures, with their minds retired before the Lord, and as they were concerned to dwell low and humble before Him, they would at times be enabled to hand forth a word of counsel or encouragement to the dear children. And in order that the children should be trained up in the right way, he looked upon it as a matter of importance that Friends should keep up their own schools under the care of religiously concerned teachers and committees, whereby the children might receive a guarded education which could not be expected in the public schools. This concern had its rise at an early period of the Society, and was one that he had felt a deep interest in. He had attended all the meetings within the limits of the Yearly Meeting, and wherever this concern prevailed there were hopeful young people growing up, and he much desired that Friends would not pass lightly over these things.

"30th, First Day.—The meeting was large, the house being well filled. E. brought to view the language of the Holy Redeemer, where he said, 'The kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid

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in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.' Thus it is with the measure of Divine grace given to each and every individual to profit withal. When this is allowed to have its full place, and perfect work in the heart, it entirely changes our nature, as the leaven does the meal, and brings forth the new birth unto righteousness, without which no man can see the kingdom of God, and of course cannot be saved. But as we submit to this transforming power we become changed from a state of nature to a state of grace; from hardness and depravity of heart, to tenderness and contrition; from the state of the ravening wolf or the destroying lion, to that of the little child; from that of the law to that of the Gospel; from that of loving our neighbor and hating our enemy, to that of loving even our enemies according to the doctrine of Christ, who said, 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.' This leads us to be kind one unto another, tender hearted, loving one another and forgiving one another even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven us. 'Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us.'

Now, my beloved young Friends, although you may have formed good resolutions, and entered into covenant again and again, and still have broken them, yet I have felt the desire for you that you might lift up your heads in hope and let the times past suffice and seek to renew your covenants with your Heavenly Father, for we have a merciful High Priest, who was touched with a feeling of our infirmities, being tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

“Attended — meeting, of good size, but much departed from the plainness and simplicity of our holy profession, and gone into the fashions, customs and ways of the world; no doubt the result of the spread of unsound doctrines, and the letting in of a worldly spirit which seems to be laying waste the testimonies of Truth as held by our ancient worthies. We met with some in all the meetings we attended who seem like right-spirited Friends; who expressed their satisfaction with our being among them, and seemed to regret the state of things, speaking freely of the many departures from our principles and practices.

“29th.—In a family collection Elwood was much favored in testimony and supplication. He brought to view his long sojourn amongst them, and that he had been with them in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling. He said that his speech had not been with the enticing words of man’s wisdom, but he believed he had been enabled to declare unto

them the whole counsel of God, as it had been manifested unto him, and that he felt peace of mind in having thus discharged his duty.

"21st.—Started for our home in Ohio with easy minds and, I trust, thankful hearts, that we had been favored to accomplish what our Divine Master required, and that He had been pleased to be with us and enable us to perform His will, and we felt that we could adopt the language, 'The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.'

"Tenth Month 3rd.—After attending Ohio Yearly Meeting we came to our own home, where we found things in such order as might be expected after an absence of nine months. We have passed through much conflict and exercise of mind and feel it to be cause for rejoicing that we have been permitted to return home at last. Indeed, we were detained much longer than we had expected, but we can in truth say it was not in pursuit of temporal gratification, for of this we partook very little during our absence. It was in religious engagements, and often in deep exercise and close trial of spirit to my dear E. even to the affecting of his health and strength, that our time was filled up. Nevertheless we may acknowledge that it is to our interest as well as our duty to be at the Divine disposal, and although this journey cost us much in every way we find the retrospect produces peace of mind, which is worth obtaining, at whatever cost."

The following is an Address to New Gar-



den Monthly Meeting, written near this time:

“Dear Friends:—My mind has often been turned towards you with feelings of love, and desires for your encouragement and preservation, and growth in the truth. I have remembered the trials and afflictions you are brought into by the intrusion of those who have separated from you, which seemed long continued and from which you are now delivered. In the consideration of these things, the language of one formerly has been brought to the view of my mind: ‘They got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them,’ and I believe we might add, it was the Lord’s doing, and marvelous in our eyes, that you were delivered from the trials you were under, and in the manner you were. All the praise should be given to Him to whom it is due, and our faithfulness should be manifested by endeavoring diligently to serve Him. Neither is it because of our righteousness, but of His abundant mercies and because His love is still extended towards our Society, as the descendants of a faithful and worthy people who were, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, gathered, in the beginning, to stand as witnesses for the ever blessed Truth; as witnesses to the spiritual nature of the Gospel dispensation. While they stood faithful the Divine blessing rested richly upon them, and now, dear Friends, we are all deeply concerned in the matter. The welfare of our own souls, and of our beloved Society,

and the advancement of the cause of truth and righteousness in the earth, depends upon our faithfulness and our obedience to the Divine will and requiring: and if we prove unfaithful others may be called in, as from the highways and hedges, to take our places and to wear our crowns.

“So let us all be livingly concerned to be found walking in the Divine counsel, filling up our measure of suffering and of service, not only for the purification of our own souls but for the body’s sake which is the Church; not sitting at ease in our ceiled houses while the Lord’s house lies waste, nor looking to others to do our work, but be diligently engaged to build first over against our own houses, then we should be instructed how to proceed further in the work. Each one would be instructed by the great Master Builder in the portion of work required of him. The language sometimes arises, ‘Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers’ praised Thee is burned up with fire, and all our pleasant things are laid waste.’ This may, in some measure, apply to our religious Society, favored as it was in its earlier days. And I believe the Lord’s mercies are over all his works, and that he is still watching over us for good, still waiting to be gracious unto us, and if we, as individuals, are faithful unto Him, He will, in His abundant mercy, enable us to lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and to run with patience the race that is set before us; and also will enable the

Church to arise and shake herself from the dust of the earth, and to put on her beautiful garments, even the garments of salvation, and come forth from the wilderness leaning upon the arm of her Beloved, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible to the man of sin, as an army with banners.

"I have also felt a salutation of love to flow towards the dear young people, fully believing there are those amongst them on whom the Lord, in His mercy, has laid His hand, and who are sensible of the visitation of Heavenly love to their souls, calling them away from the vanities and follies of this fading world, to seek after durable riches and righteousness. Oh! that you might be prevailed upon to close in with the offers of redeeming love and mercy, in this your day of visitation, remembering your Creator in the days of your youth, 'While the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.' If the day of our visitation is neglected, our hearts will become more and more hardened in sin until the things that belong to our peace will be hidden from our eyes, but if you embrace the offers of Heavenly love and walk in the fear of the Lord, you will find it to be a fountain of life which will preserve from the snares of death. It is said also that, 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil, is understanding.' 'I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honor are with me; yea, durable riches

and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment; that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasuries. The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. \* \* \* And I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him; rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. Now, therefore, hearken unto me, O ye children; for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.' Spiritual death, not being willing their deeds should be brought to the light, lest they be reprov'd. But he that abideth in this Divine wisdom, will bring all his deeds to the light, that they may be made manifest that they are wrought in God.

"Now, my dear young friends, this word of Divine wisdom is nigh you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may hear it and do it, and as you are willing to listen to its voice, you will indeed be brought to inherit salvation, and be made partakers of the peace which passeth the understanding of the natural man, even that peace which the world cannot give.

neither can it take away. And being thus made willing to take up your daily cross, and live a self-denying life, taking His yoke upon you, and learning of Him who is meek and lowly of heart, you will find rest to your souls; and to the renewed nature, His yoke will become easy and His burden light. Thus waiting and watching at wisdom's gate, having your spiritual senses exercised to discern both good and evil, you will be enabled to discern the voice of the true Shepherd from that of the stranger; and as obedience keeps pace with knowledge, you will grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Truth, and become qualified to fill your allotted places in the Church, faithfully bearing the testimonies committed to us, and displaying a banner for the Truth before the world. Oh! that you may be faithful, so that you may be found standing in your allotments at the end of the days, and prepared to receive the answer, 'Well done, good and faithful servant: \* \* \* enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.' 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

"With a salutation of love, I remain your friend,

ELWOOD DEAN.

During the course of a religious visit within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, in the year 1881, he writes to his wife:

"My minute is too short. I shall have to write to the Monthly Meeting for more liberty,

or come home without finishing the work. That Heavenly influence and Almighty power has been with me in a remarkable manner, so that my strength has been renewed like the eagle's. My health is better now than when I left home, and I feel that I have much to be thankful for, and I hope the same Almighty power will be with thee, to sustain thee. Truly, I can say, we have a very tender, kind and merciful High Priest, who has been touched with a feeling of our infirmities, who remembers our frame, and knows that we are dust. As we look unto Him, He will mercifully preserve our souls, and keep us alive in famine. I do not know any better way than to endeavor to attend to the dear Master's business, and leave home affairs."

Phebe W. Roberts writes:

"My dear friend, Elizabeth Dean:—We have had a very acceptable visit from thy dear husband and companion, both at our meetings and our homes, and knowing the time must seem long since he left thee, and being likely to remain some time longer in these parts, I felt it would be right to inform thee that we believe he is in his place amongst us. All the meetings I have attended with him have been seasons of renewed favor, wherein the wing of Ancient Goodness has been spread over us, and ability given to labor and to divide the word aright: and we have been made to feel thankful that the dear Master has sent him amongst us, and no doubt his reward will be

sure, and thou, my dear friend, will be supported by the Everlasting Arm, that continues to be underneath to sustain in low seasons, even He who remains to be, 'As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.' \* \* \* I am thankful that we still have a living gospel ministry preserved amongst us. \* \* \*

Affectionately, thy friend,

PHEBE W. ROBERTS."

From E. H. to Elwood Dean:

"Having had the privilege, at different times, of hearing from thee through letters to thy dear E. by which we learn that thou hast been moving on in the work appointed thee, comfortably and satisfactorily, which was cheering to hear; I thought I would sit down this morning and tell thee that thy last letter, particularly, seemed to do me good, animating, I trust, with a little fresh courage to cleave closer and closer to the unconquered Captain of salvation. When we see those who have been long engaged in the warfare, with their armor closely girt about them, pressing forward in faith and patience in the race set before them, evidencing to others that 'They have not followed cunningly devised fables' but a precious reality, and are thereby made partakers of that hope which is as an anchor to the soul both sure and steadfast; surely this is encouraging to others to enlist under the banner of the same dear Master and manifest their allegiance by their obedience to Him in

all things, that thus they may be enabled to fight the good fight of faith, that they may have the same animating hope set before them at the end of the journey, even eternal life.

\* \* \* I am thinking some about Quarterly Meeting and if I should be favored to attend it will remind me that I have gained in strength during the past three months, and whether I attend or not, I may gratefully acknowledge that such has been the case. When I reflect a little on my long seasons of affliction and weakness, and the circumstances attending them, how different has the way been from what the human understanding would have thought expedient, impressively reminding, 'My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.'

"If such a child may hand forth a word unto thee, it would be that the dear Master may enable thee to accomplish all that is well pleasing in His holy eyesight, and prosper thee in the work whereunto He has sent thee. 'Ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.'"

The following extracts are here inserted without regard to due order of time:

To J. S. E.—"Alas! what are the brightest talents worth if we let self get uppermost in religious matters, and do not humbly abide in submission to the Divine will. Self righteousness is the hardest of all to be reached unto or convinced, so that there is no place of safety



for us, but in humbly endeavoring to maintain the watch and remembering that of ourselves we can do nothing: that all our ability for every good word and work must be received from Him who is 'Strength in weakness, riches in poverty, and a present helper in the needful time.' This, no doubt, all His humble followers will find, and that He will enable them to perform every work required of them. This I may say from a degree of experience in my sojourning in the West the past summer, as also in some other little journeyings since. Unworthy as I feel myself to be, I well know all the praise is due to Him whose the work is, and whose the cause is, and who gives the ability; for we can only say, after endeavoring to do our duty, 'We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.' We claim neither merit nor reward, and yet, out of His bountiful treasury the Master richly rewards those who endeavor faithfully to serve Him."

To his wife: "I feel rather low but quiet and peaceful, neither abounding nor suffering need above what I feel able to bear. I cannot see how the journey may terminate, but hope it may be peaceful. I feel love flow toward thee, dear Elizabeth, and to little Mary, earnestly desiring your preservation, and that thy prayers may be for my preservation and right getting along, which feels to me like a weighty matter in looking to attending meetings in the capacity in which I am now traveling. I often

who profess to uphold and promulgate the doctrines and testimonies and principles of our Religious Society, to dig deep; to lay their foundations low; to draw near to each other in spirit, thereby strengthening and encouraging one another.

"I can fully and freely respond to what thou sayest upon this subject. I have long believed that if there were more intercourse by writing or otherwise, we should understand each other better and love each other more. I am often made sensible that we are surrounded by many trials, tribulations and perplexities, so that at times our hands are ready to hang down, and the feeble knees to smite together from very weakness: but it is good for us to remember, and to be brought to feel the Lord's power to be above every other power, and that He will never leave nor forsake those who put their whole trust in Him. Whatever the trials or discouragements may be, as faithfulness and obedience are abode in, such will be brought to experience the Almighty Arm of power made bare round about and underneath them, strengthening and supporting under their various trials, so that they will be enabled to adopt this language: 'As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even forever.' May we, my dear friend, in our low and stripped seasons, be enabled to lay hold in living faith, of the precious promises recorded in the Scrip-

tures of Truth for our instruction and encouragement.

"There are many who go mourning on their way because of the desolations of our Zion and the signs of the times. We truly have cause to mourn over these things, yet there are times and seasons when we are enabled to believe that the power of God is the same as ever it was, and He is as near His humble, dependent, dedicated children in the present day, as He has been in any age or generation of the world. Let us then, my dear friend, under a fresh sense of the Lord's goodness, mercy and almighty power, put on a little fresh courage and strength in His name, leaving the things that are behind, and pressing forward toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord: so that when the trials and conflicts of time are drawing to a close we may be enabled, by the mercy of God, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to adopt the language of the Apostle when he said: 'For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.'

"In much love to thee and thine, and enquiring friends, I am thy friend."

J. S. S. again writes: "Thy long looked

for letter arrived on Fifth day, the 31st, which was in due time after mailing. We sometimes say 'Better late than never,' and so it seems to me in this case. I am very glad to hear from thee, and trust I fully appreciate thy kind, good and interesting letter... I often feel it to be a great favor, that time or distance does not prevent our entering into sympathy and fellow feeling with one another in our trials, religious exercises, and the discouragements by which we may be surrounded in the present day. I believe it good for us to be made willing to bear each other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Thou hadst the opportunity of seeing and feeling some of our various burdens, when thou wast here mingling with us, and I trust thou hast had no cause to regret making the sacrifice thou didst in order to be with us.

"The Yearly Meeting's committee is engaged from, time to time, in going up and down visiting meetings under a deep sense, I trust, of the great importance of the objects of these appointments. And under the feeling that of ourselves we can do nothing, and in view of the low state of things as to religious exercise and travail of spirit, in many places, we are often brought very low before the Lord, with our hands ready to hang down and our feeble knees to smite together from very weakness. .Notwithstanding all this, and more than this, the Lord is still round about His people, even as the mountains are round

about Jerusalem. Some of the committee are at times enabled to preach the way of life and salvation, by and through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we trust, in good authority. But how often are we made sensible that Paul may plant, and Apollos water, but it is God alone can give the increase.

“If it could be done upon the right ground, in the unity and fellowship of the gospel of Christ, I would rejoice to see a renewal of epistolary correspondence between our Yearly Meetings, believing, with thee, that it might be beneficial and strengthening both to you and us. Some are prepared for it now, others think the time is not yet. We must be patient. I can fully and freely respond to what thou sayest, in relation to our Religious Society. The longer I live, the more convinced I am that we, as a people, have great need to get down below the surface to dig deep and lay our foundation low, even upon the eternal Rock of Ages, our Lord, Christ Jesus being willing to be led and guided by His holy spirit, who teaches as never man taught, nor can teach. I know of no other way to the kingdom of Heaven than by the Cross of Christ, our crucified and risen Lord; ‘For there is no other name under Heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved,’ but by the name of Jesus. Oh that we, the members of our Religious Society, might live more and more under the government and influence of the spirit of Christ; then there

would be no strife or division amongst us, but we should see eye to eye, and walk by the same rule, minding the same things and thus becoming prepared to labor harmoniously for the honor of Truth."

"Barnesville, 9th Mo., 5th.—Dear Elizabeth: My heart warms with love and sympathy whenever my thoughts have turned towards thee, which has been very often indeed since leaving thee. Tears now fill my eyes whilst penning these lines to thee, as thy loving care comes before my view, not only in so freely giving me up to apprehended duty, but also in almost wearing thyself out in trying to fix me up nicely and comfortably and in taking all the burden of the home care whilst I am away. I hope and have earnestly desired that a blessing might rest upon thee, and dear Mary. Dear child, try to make dear Auntie's way as easy as thou canst, and I do believe the good Master's presence will be with thee and His blessing will attend."

To the same—"11th Mo., 25th.—I feel somewhat disappointed in not getting off home yesterday. Last Seventh day was Quarterly Meeting and it was largely attended. R. E. P. and A. V. were both acceptably engaged in the ministry. Silence appeared to be my proper place. On First day the meeting house was filled to its utmost capacity notwithstanding that it was a snowy, stormy day. The meeting sat long in silence... I had almost

concluded that it would close in silence, but the way finally opened to address the people, and to endeavor to impress their minds, with the necessity of silent waiting upon the Lord, if we would know an advancement in the Truth, and an establishment on the unchangeable Foundation. Finally one thing after another presented, until way seemed to open to speak of many things pertaining to life and salvation and the wellspring of life seemed to arise and flow until it not only reached to the ankles or to the knees, but became as a river to swim in. There seemed a solemn covering over the meeting and we were all comforted and edified together.

“I had expected to go on my way rejoicing, with a free and easy mind, toward my dear home, but on Second day morning, in looking towards the cars, no light seemed to shine on my pathway. I made a few calls, and the way opened for us to be comforted together, but now I do not feel that I can leave until after meeting tomorrow. I do not know what will be then, but I feel doubts as to whether the time of release is at hand yet. It seems as though bonds and afflictions may still await me. I desire to be able to say with Paul that, ‘None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel

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of the grace of God.' I hope you may be preserved in patience, and remember you are under the protecting care of Him, without whose notice not a sparrow falls to the ground. I have been preserved in health, through all sorts of weather in a remarkable manner. We have had some beautiful weather and some very stormy."

From J. W. to Elwood Dean. "Dear Friend: An interesting and acceptable letter received from thee last summer, has laid by me unanswered. There has been much in the interval to claim my care and attention, and often little ability to write, so that way has not opened to acknowledge its reception, though often remembered. The desire thou seemed to feel, that some friends from these parts might be drawn to attend your last Yearly Meeting was answered. I hope the company and labors of our friends Clarkson Sheppard and Joseph Scattergood were acceptable and useful to their western brethren. I esteem them as valuable Friends in their respective stations. It has been interesting to me to hear of so many of your own ministers being sent about, to visit the flock in different parts of your land. Is it not the case that the Head of the Church is doing with you, through His moving on the hearts of individual servants, what in our limits He has laid on the Church collectively: to cultivate the vineyard more thoroughly than has



been done for some time before: to search out the waste places, and strengthen the living plants? I have noticed, with interest, thy share in this work. I suppose, as every heart knows its own bitterness, so every yearly meeting has its own peculiar trials and difficulties, its weak spots and suffering cases. The committee of our Yearly Meeting is industriously employed, in visiting meetings, and has indeed labored abundantly, and the meetings have often been owned by the Divine presence. In thy letter thou asks respecting E. R., who spoke in Moorestown meeting when thou wast here. She has since appeared in that way, I think, three times. I believe such sacrifices are sometimes called for, when it is not the design of the Head of the Church permanently to employ such persons in that line of service. How it may be with E. I do not know. I have felt much interest in her case and, if it is the Divine will, should be glad to see her commissioned and sent into the harvest field. Lydia desires her love to thy wife and thyself in which I join, and am thy sincere friend.—J. W.”

Letter from Soren Oleson, LeGrande, Iowa.

Often remembered friend, Elwood Dean:—I have felt since thou wast here that it would be right for me to send thee a few lines, in order to express that love, and tender regard I felt toward thee and companions,

although far separated, and strangers as to the outward; and nothing but a feeling of this kind would induce me to take up my pen and address a stranger, and one that is far above myself, both in gifts and experience; but 'Charity,' says the Apostle, 'beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.' It is good to love one another, as we have also an evidence of thy love to usward, in sending us an acceptable letter, which was more than we could expect. It is a great comfort to know that we have friends who can feel and sympathize with us, when we are tried and proved. It has been and still is my lot to be tried and proved, on account of the still increasing decline or dilapidation in our Society. This is a great sorrow to me, so much so that I believe my natural strength is wearing away with it, for I view it and feel it, in a two-fold respect. In the first place the great majority seem inclined to go back to that which our early Friends came out of, and which they faithfully testified against, and suffered for their testimony—seem inclined to mix up and bring in innovations. On the other hand, such as I would consider the standard-bearers, and foremost rank of the army, are so split and divided, that we have cause to query: what is the true body of Friends? These are sorrowful facts. . . . In viewing our part of the Society, I am ready to exclaim: "The testimonies of the Lord are trodden down! The

ark of the covenant is taken, how shall we regain it? Who is sufficient for these things? I did not know anything of the doctrine and practice of the Society of Friends before I was 'convinced,' which was at about the age of eighteen years; and as the doctrines and testimonies of Friends were dear to me then, so they have been ever since, and therefore it goes hard with me to see them violated or disregarded, and it is my earnest desire to support them, although I am quite sensible it is under many weaknesses and frailties of the flesh. When I was twenty years old, it was my lot to suffer about five months imprisonment, for refusing to work in the military service in 1848 in my native land.

"My friend, I use freedom. I do not know if this looks like a letter or something else; but I write as things come up before my mind, hoping thou wilt bear with me. . . . So I conclude, with much love to thee, for I feel that to be the covering of my mind, as I am penning these lines. I should be glad to meet with thee again, or any of the Lord's servants whose feet should be turned this way. I am comforted in the belief that there are many within our borders who are earnestly concerned to uphold and support the doctrines and ensigns of our Society. As I was reading, this morning, the seventh chapter of Jeremiah, I thought how very instructive, and how many warning lessons. May we be wise

while it is called today! Affectionately, thy friend, Soren Oleson."

Clarkson Sheppard to Elwood Dean.  
"My Dear Friend:—Being in Philadelphia recently and having a letter of thine, to our friend, John S. Stokes, handed me to read, I was encouraged and helped by what it communicated respecting any little service, I might have been strengthened to render while amongst you in Ohio and Iowa. Thou, perhaps, does not know, and perhaps may not thyself have such feelings but it is often my lot to feel that I never did any good, Godward in my life. About the time thy letter was handed to me I felt a good deal as the poor widow of Sarepta did, who, when the prophet was sent to her was just gathering a few sticks in order to bake the last cake, that she and her son might eat thereof and die, so sore was the drouht and famine in the land. But how true, as we'll as often verified, is that scripture, 'The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him,' etc., for thus was the widow sustained and her son and Elijah too, by the handful of meal and the little oil in the cruse, until the Lord sent rain upon the earth. I thought, dear friend, thou also might derive some encouragement in these poor times, from the fact of having helped a poor friend and brother, in a time of great need, by inserting just what thou did in that letter. Not tending to exalt the

creature or set up, no, no! but encouraging to faithfulness and to the committing of ourselves and all that we have and are, unto the 'I Am' of His dependent children. Thy record is another evidence that, by giving way to small impressions brought to the mind, we may sometimes be made the instruments of help and comfort to one another without knowing it, yea, become indeed one another's helpers and joy in the Lord.

"Our Yearly Meeting of 1887 has passed into history. Thou wilt see an account of it prepared for 'The Friend.' While there were some encouraging features, and especially precious evidences, at times, that the Lord, in His mercy, condescends to our low estate yet it was, to some, a season of suffering. The trials of our day are so great. The spirit that has been permitted to set in upon us is a delusive one. Its Plausibility, its adaptativeness to our carnal propensities, in seeking some easier way to the kingdom; its glitter and show are captivating, and will, perhaps, try the foundations of everyone. But there is an ark of safety: 'The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal the Lord knoweth them that are his.' Dear friend, does not the day call for suffering? 'Fill ye up, therefore, your measure of the cup of suffering for His body's sake, which is the Church.' If we suffer (with Christ) we shall also reign with Him.' It seems to me that it is those

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who are willing to suffer with and for a suffering Savior, in this day of treading down, of removing the landmark, and of trial, that shall, at seasons reign with Him, and know their best life given them for a prey. With love to thee and thy dear wife, I remain affectionately, thy sincere friend, Clarkson Sheppard."

From J. S. to Elwood Dean. "Dear Friend: Thou hast been the companion of my thoughts for some time past and I should have written to thee ere this, but we have been looking for thee here. This morning I saw A. B. who told me they had had a letter from thee, saying thou did not know when thou would be here, and also thou sent love to us, which is very acceptable. We also got a very interesting letter from our mutual friend, J. S. E., giving a pretty full account of your movements, which was a satisfaction to us. We feel entire unity with thee and thy concern, and hope and believe that thou and J. S. E. will be strengthened with might by the spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the inner man, to do the work he calls for at your hands, in meekness and fear. Yes, I believe He has bestowed on thee as well as J. S. E. and others, a gift in the ministry, for the edification of the churches, as well as to strengthen the weak hands of many, that may seem ready to hang down from discouragements, and to confirm the feeble knees, and

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Almighty Arm of power which created the universe and sustains it, and who also condescends to listen to, and answer the cry and the prayer of the lowly and humble, even those who may often feel poor in spirit and unworthy of His holy regard and notice. Yet although He inhabits eternity, and dwells in the high and holy place, He condescends also to visit the lowly, the humble and the contrite ones, to revive the spirits of such from time to time so they may not give out by the way. 'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust,' and will not suffer us to be tried or tempted, or so long destitute of spiritual food and nourishment, that we will perish in the wilderness; though at times He may, for the trial of our faith suffer us to go long fasting; yet He will enable us to live by that little grain of faith, and the remembrance of His mercies past, having, as it were partaken of a little of that soul sustaining food comparable to the little cake of which the prophet partook and was sustained forty days. That same power can and will sustain the Lord's humble dependent children now, even as then, and although we may often feel poor in spirit, we may remember that a blessing is pronounced on such by our holy and compassionate Redeemer.

"Now I will try to post thee a little as to our movements since I last wrote. On Sev-



enth day evening we took our departure from the City, and went by rail to Reading, a city of forty thousand inhabitants, sixty miles up the Schuylkill river, where we found a small meeting of Friends. As notice had been given, the meeting was larger than usual, a number of others besides regular attenders being present. It proved a time of favor wherein our strength was renewed. In the afternoon attended a meeting appointed by J. S. Elkinton, in a Hicksite meeting house in the City. It proved a relieving time to my mind. I often feel unworthy of the least of the Lord's mercies, and am very sensible I can do nothing of myself, either for the relief of my own mind, or for the advancement of the good cause, and have abundant reason to bless and praise His holy name, for enabling so poor and unworthy an instrument to relieve an often deeply exercised mind, I believe, so far, without hurting the cause of truth. . Friends seem very kind, and do what they can to make our way easy. The door seems open to receive us and our testimony. After we attended the last named meeting we went to a place called Robeson about seven miles distant. There was only one family of Friends there. It was a place where a meeting had gone down, but public notice being given, quite a number assembled and it proved a good meeting. . One man laid hold of my hand as I left the meeting, saying, 'God bless you.' They all seemed glad of the meeting. Then we went to a small set-

tlement of Friends nine or ten miles further up the river, and attended a meeting in a Hicksite meeting house. There was but one of their members left there. He attended, and quite a company gathered; it proved an open, favored time.

"After Bucks Quarterly Meeting I could say, 'Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.' Indeed it has seemed remarkable how the current of life has continued with me from time to time, so that I have had to rejoice in the Divine mercy and goodness to so poor a creature Praise to the Lord's ever worthy name! . . . Elwood Dean.

"6th Mo. 25th. Dear Elizabeth: We sent word to West Chester that we intended to be there on First day. Phebe W. Roberts had a minute to visit all the meetings in the Quarter, and said she felt as though she hardly knew how or when to commence, and was hoping the good Master would send some one to help her, and now it seemed as if the time had come, and the way was open to go, if I was prepared to accompany her. It seemed a relief to my mind, and a confirmation that I was in the line of Divine appointment, so next morning we went to West Chester where we had a large and and highly favored meeting. We dined with Jane Gibbons, an eminent minister. In the afternoon went to Westtown and attended meeting there at four o'clock. Next lday attended an appointed meeting at Birmingham

one at Chester on Third day, and one at Goshen on Fourth day, Middletown on Fifth day, at Chester on Sixth day in the forenoon, and at Darby in the afternoon and are now resting at George Garrett's.

" . . . I think it likely I shall attend the Monthly Meetings with P. W. R. as they occur, the coming week. I cannot see the end yet, but think it likely I shall have to attend a large proportion of the meetings composing the Yearly Meeting. Our dear friend Rachel Roberts is deceased and is to be buried tomorrow. She was in her ninetieth year. Friends here send love to thee, they do almost wherever I go, so there is no need to be discouraged for want of love, and I hope and trust the dear Master's love is to thee, and round about thee for thy help and support through this lonely time. I still hope to be permitted to return in peace in the good Masters time.

"J. is a very good and kind companion. He seems to enjoy good health, except that he has had a severe cold, but is much better now. He does all he can for my relief and help, which is very satisfactory, for I often feel very weary and need rest. I have frequently stood long on my feet in meeting, for one no better qualified for the work. I feel that I have much to be thankful for, and above all that the dear Master has been with me in a remarkable man-

ner from day to day, qualifying for the service which He requires, and is strength in weakness, riches in poverty and a present helper in the needful time, strengthening for every good word and work. My dear Elizabeth, let us bow in humility and thankfulness at His holy foot stool, for He richly rewards those who diligently seek Him. Glory to His ever worthy name! I would like my love given to dear E. H. Hope she will not give out by the way, but be strengthened to do the Lord's holy will, being faithful to the pointings of duty that she may occupy the precious gift committed to her trust, so that she may receive the answer, 'Well done, good and faithful servant: . . . enter into the joy of thy Lord.'

With much love to thee, dear E., Elwood Dean.

"7th Mo. 1st. My Dear Elizabeth: I received thine today and was very glad to hear from thee. I sympathize with thee in thy loneliness, but I believe it is better thou did not come, as thou could not have traveled right on, all the hundreds of miles I have, and thy faith and strength have held out, without a miracle. It would often have been very inconvenient getting from station to station. I can walk a little without hurting myself, (farther than thou could) which is a great accommodation sometimes. Phebe W. Roberts and I traveled in great harmony and unity. We attended ten meetings in seven days, all favored

seasons, some of them particularly so. One of them where Joseph Rhoades lives, at Springfield, was very large and remarkably favored. I think I have never known the power of Truth to prevail more, through such a feeble instrument as I am. P. W. R. is a very sweet spirited minister and has been much favored. She is much beloved by Friends here, and has great place with them generally. We have got through with Concord Quarter, but Phebe wishes to hold a meeting on First day at her own meeting house and wishes me to attend, which I feel like doing.

“Last Second day attended the Monthly Meeting at Media, and the usual meeting the day previous, a large favored meeting. On Third day went to Salem Monthly Meeting, New Jersey. Phebe’s mission being about accomplished she did not go, but J. S. E. did.

. . . Last evening we had a large meeting in the city with the colored Methodists. The congregation appeared to be a well educated class of people. The bishop and Minister were both present. It was a solemn meeting and an interesting time. One nicely behaved colored woman came here this morning to see us. There had been allusion made to the good Shepherd’s voice, which touched her heart and she came to have some conversation with us on that subject. She said she had long been convinced that it was her duty to preach. She knew there was a prejudice against woman’s

preaching and she had suffered much before she gave up—had been brought very low, and covenanted to be faithful if raised up again, and, when she got well, thought it her duty to go South to Virginia, etc., where she had preached to both white and colored people, and had experienced great peace in endeavoring to follow the good Shepherd, and much success had crowned her labors. It was a very interesting interview. We were all edified together and she went on her way rejoicing.

“I received a good letter from John Brantingham encouraging me to hold on to the work, until I see the right time for a release. I want thee, too, to depend on the heavenly Master, our tender and merciful Father who cares for the lonely sparrows, and will care for thee while he calls for my services abroad. I could not expect to have peace if I did not follow Him faithfully. That is the way to work out my soul’s salvation, that I may receive the reward of ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’ If I am only favored to finish my course in peace, it is more than all worldly enjoyment. ‘Pray one for another; . . . the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’ With love, farewell. Elwood Dean.

Phebe W. Roberts to Elwood Dean.

“Elwood Dean, Dear Friend: Our dear daughter was much gratified by receiving a let-

ter from thee this morning. We were very glad to hear from you, and thy account of the meetings you visited was interesting, as I have been amongst the Friends at Muncy Monthly Meeting some years ago. Suppose by this time you are on your way to Ohio, where a warm welcome awaits you, and the rich reward of peace will be granted an hundred fold in this life, and in one to come everlasting life, is the precious promise to those who leave all for the dear Master's sake and the Gospel's; and thy dear E. will partake of the 'spoil' and nothing short of the Everlasting Arms could have supported her in thy absence. No doubt many anxious moments she has had, as thy health was not good when thou first came amongst us, but that improved as thou journey around. Cannot we adopt the language, 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us?' The comfort and strength thy visit was to some of the little ones, will be remembered, and I doubt not a blessing will rest upon thy labors, and some who are wandering from the fold be awakened to a more serious consideration of their latter end. The feeling of thy mind may be 'I have done no more than was my duty to do', attended with the feeling of being an unprofitable servant, but though we are not to rejoice when the spirits are made subject to us, yet it is said, 'Rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.'

The visit to the meetings in our Quarterly Meeting, for which I was liberated before

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knowing thee was coming amongst us was to me a fresh evidence of the tender regard and compassion of our Heavenly Father, making a way where no way was seen. My heart was humbled under a fresh sense of His goodness and mercy, which has followed me all the days of my life. The visit to those meetings with thee and thy dear companion, the Friends houses where we were together and, at some of them, the little heavenly showers that descended to the refreshing of the weary, traveler Zionward, are seasons to be remembered.

“Your Yearly Meeting is drawing on. I shall be with you in mind, and may Israel’s unslumbering Shepherd agains overshadow you with His holy presence, enabling you to transact the weighty concerns of the Church. I was comforted in being with you last year, and Friends of that Yearly Meeting feel as ‘bone of my bone’ and would that way might open to renew correspondence. Please give my love to those who inquire for thy poor friend. We shall be glad to hear from thee at any time. Tell Jesse a letter from him will be acceptable. Jacob joins in love to you both and dear E. I remain thy friend, Phebe W. Roberts.”

Letter from George J. Scatergood to Elizabeth Dean.

“Dear Friend: Believing it would be agreeable to thee to hear from some of those



amongst whom thy valued husband has lately been engaged in religious labors, I write, partly at his suggestion, to give thee some information respecting him, not doubting, however, that by his own pen thou hast frequently been made acquainted with his movements and some of his exercises. The day before yesterday he left Philadelphia for Reading not expecting to return to these parts; and in retrospect of the visit which he had paid us here, I fully believe he will feel a sweet reward of peace. His labors have been very earnest and diligent and his ministry has been accompanied with convincing power and with that refreshment, at times, to the well concerned which animates the soul, and which proves the validity of his commission as minister of the Gospel, while his conversation out of meeting has been attended frequently with an innocent cheerfulness, which has rendered his company very satisfactory and instructive.

In reviewing his visit here, attended, as it has been, with a cordial reception from various classes amongst us, and accompanied with the evidences which Truth furnishes, it has been a subject of sincere satisfaction that his steps have been turned this way, and I trust the fruits of his labors, consistent example and dedication, may appear both in individuals and in our collective capacity, tending, as I believe it will, to draw more nearly together the members of our respective Yearly Meetings, and

removing doubts and prejudices in the minds of some which have acted as obstacles to that fellowship which should, I believe, more conspicuously appear between these two bodies. My wife desires her love to thee. I am thy sincere friend, G. J. Scattergood."

Elwood Dean to a friend under affliction:  
"It would be very pleasant to know how thou art getting along whether thy health improves or not. There seems no other way for such as thou, and indeed for any of us, than to endeavor to 'let patience have her perfect work, that we may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.' If fully resigned, the language will sometimes come to us, 'My grace is sufficient for thee.' And indeed the time is short for any of us. 'Our life is but a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away.' I still remember at times that beautiful psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.'

"My dear friend, neither think the time long nor hard when the Bridegroom is pleased to withdraw His holy presence from us for a time. We may feel to exclaim as the Psalmist

did, 'Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?' but let us be encouraged as he was to say, 'Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.' In quietness and confidence is thy strength at these times, and then the encouraging language, 'He that endureth to the end shall be saved,' and shall pass through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil."

From Elizabeth Dean's diary: "Called to see Amelia Maerkt and daughters. They seem to feel their loss (the death of F. M.) very much. Amelia, on being asked her maiden name, said it was Steinhofer, and that it was her grandfather of whom we have read the account that as he was going to visit a sick man, one First day afternoon, he was waylaid by a man who intended to shoot him, but thought he saw two men walking with him, by which he was deterred from doing so.

4th Mo. 27th—We have now attended all the meetings belonging to Ohio Yearly Meeting except those in Iowa. We have passed through much exercise of mind, and find things low in many places, yet the Lord in His unbounded goodness and mercy is still watching over our poor stripped and peeled Society for good, warning, calling, and inviting us to all turn to Him, to cleave unto Him, that we may be with Him, and then He will be with us, to our comfort and peace, and will build us up.

We found a living remnant among those who appeared to be mourning over the desolation of Zion. Some in every meeting with whom we could freely mingle and take sweet counsel together, and had many sweet and precious seasons of meetings, when the overshadowing of heavenly good was experienced and the descendings as of the early and the latter rain, much to the refreshment of our souls. For these precious seasons we ought to give thanks unto the Lord's ever worthy name.

"6th Mo. 25th—Visited the State Prison at Animosa, and were kindly and cordially received by the officers in charge. We were invited into their meeting room where they were assembled for scripture reading and instruction, after which their meeting was held. After they had gone through with their service the way was opened for E. to address them. He spoke at considerable length, opening unto them the way of life and salvation and encouraging them to lay hold of the hope set before them, whereby they might, through true repentance, receive the remission of their sins and experience a preparation for a happy eternity. There was a stranger present by the name of Henry C. Farson, who addressed them in a very touching manner, saying that he had in his early life, been a prisoner just as they were now. He seemed to enter into feeling with them, and gave them very good advice for both the present and the future, particularly

when the time came for them to leave there. He spoke highly of the Society of Friends, as a class of people to whom they might look for help and encouragement in the right way. Many of the prisoners shed tears. I believe there were about one hundred and seventy inmates, many of whom were young or middle aged."

Letter from Elwood Dean to Joseph S. Elkinton.

"Dear Friend: It seems like I have been very neglectful in regard to answering letters, but my situation and condition has been such that I could not write much. I have passed through many exercises and perils, within and without. No perils by sea, but some by land and perils among all sorts of things, added to which my health has been poor and remains so. I am sitting now with my foot up on a chair on account of my limb being swollen and painful. Thou may remember our meeting at T. Patterson's near Stillwater, many years ago. I was then suffering with a swollen and painful limb which gradually grew better and has never troubled me much since. My suffering now is from a similar attack on the other limb, so taking all things into consideration, I believe we may say, 'This is not the place of our rest,' but we must look for that perfect rest only in the home above where 'The wicked cease from troubling and the weary be at rest.'

"We have been among the scattered remnants both in Indiana and Kansas, but we have not visited those in Iowa yet, and do not know whether we shall. Time will determine. We have visited the meeting in Linn County, Iowa and Hickory Grove and West Branch in Cedar County. I do not see when we shall leave this neighborhood, nor do I feel sure that we are clear of some of the other meetings in Iowa yet. That I must leave for the present, and try to live a day at a time. We have met with some honest-hearted goodly Friends in the different neighborhoods amongst those scattered remnants that have withdrawn from the larger bodies. We have met with some things in Cedar County, I suppose, very similar to what thou met with here. In all our travels the effect of the fall seems manifest, and I am often reminded of the language of an Apostle, 'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.' He was, in great mercy, manifested for this purpose, but the subtlety of the Enemy is so great, and the allurements of sin so prevalent that many choose what, to them, seems pleasure, the blinding, fascinating pleasures for a season, rather than hear the voice of Him who said, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me,' so that the work goes on slowly and many seem in danger of taking up a rest short of the true rest; yet I believe there

are many scattered up and down who are enquiring the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward. May these 'Be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man' and enabled to hold on their way, for those who continue faithful to the end shall be saved, shall receive the crown of life which fadeth not away; and surely, to these, the trials and afflictions of the present time are not to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed.

"Amidst my many probations, I have this one comfort and evidence of life, that I still feel that I love the brethren and desire the prosperity of Truth and the advancement of the good cause. As to those fearfully destructive cyclones, I have not heard of any Friends suffering the loss of life or property, but when we are surrounded with so many perils and imminent dangers, ought not our hearts to be humbled, and the solmen language to come home to us all 'Be ye therefore ready also for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not, and ye may be called from time to eternity.' E. Dean."

Letter from R. E. Patterson to E. Dean.

"2nd Mo. 21st 1882. Dear Friend Elwood Dean: I do prize the privilege of following up in feeling for, and with the laborers in the work of the gospel, and would bid those now on this embassy in the West God-speed on their journey, earnestly desiring that a

blessing may rest upon the labor that I believe is called for, in gathering those that have been scattered in a cloudy and dark day; as well as to minister to the needs of the sheep and lambs of the Flock, under the fresh anointing and putting forth of the good Shepherd, who sees need even in this day to equip and send forth those whom He will, with the command 'Feed my sheep—feed my lambs.' And if the call should seem to be often repeated, how good it is to feel that He who putteth forth goeth before and not only maketh the way in the hearts of the people, but is mouth and wisdom, tongue and utterance, in all that He requireth, and a rich rewarder of all those that willingly serve Him. Even the good of the land is in store for those who diligently serve the great Lord of the harvest, as thou, dear friend, can bear testimony to, though thou may and will realize the varied baptisms that are needful by the way. Summer and winter, seed time and harvest, were to continue unto the very end. And what son is there whom the Father chasteneth not, and who would not rather bear the chastening rod than slide into an easier path which leads to destruction. R. E. Paterson."

In a letter to J. Walton, dated 8th Mo. 29th Elwood Dean says:

"Notice was given for next day, being First day. The house was well filled and it proved a relieving time to my mind, and the



people seemed satisfied. I think we had complete evidence that there are many people in different parts of the country who are glad of the privilege of attending meetings held after the ancient order and practice of Friends, and that the doctrines of the gospel should be again held forth, as they were believed in, and practiced by those sons of the morning, who were instrumental in gathering our beloved Society in the beginning, viz., Geo. Fox, Wm. Penn, Robert Barclay and a host of others in that day. The power that gathered them remains the same. The gospel light life and power changeth not, and therefore the sons of Jacob are not consumed, the foundations are not destroyed, and after man has wearied himself in bringing in changes and innovations in principle and practice, endeavoring to find an easier path to walk in, an easier way to climb up to heaven, than the way of the cross. It will be found that 'The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His,' and that, Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ,' and that to build on this foundation the carnal mind must be slain, the old man with his deeds put off, and the new man, created anew in Christ Jesus, put on which is not an imaginary work but a real work, an experimental, heart cleansing work, through the powerful operation of the holy Spirit, purifying and sanctifying the soul; not only fitting and preparing it for the

mansions of eternal rest and peace, but also for an habitation for his holy Spirit to dwell in. Whilst we, as strangers and pilgrims, are journeying through this wilderness world, the blessed Spirit is as a light to our feet, and a lantern to our paths, and is the true Comforter whom Christ said the Father would send in His name, 'Even the spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.' . . .

'My faith remains firm that there will be again, a time of gathering, a time when the voice of the true Shepherd will be more and more heard in the land, for there shall be one fold and one Shepherd. The gospel truths proclaimed by our worthy predecessors in the beginning, are as unchangeable as their Author, and however they may be despised and rejected and trampled under foot for a time, yet they will arise again in greater brightness and beauty and must gradually spread over the whole earth until 'The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ.' This hope is animating and should encourage everyone to faithfulness, watchfulness and diligence, that we may be found in our allotments at the end of the day. Having fought the good fight, finished our course and kept the faith, there will be laid up for us a crown of eternal life in the world to come."

"Joseph Walton, My Dear Friend: Thy acceptable letter of the 5th inst. was duly received, and we were glad to hear from thee, as we always are. I think the matters alluded to, in relation to our Yearly Meeting, are worthy of consideration. There is balm in Gilead and there is a physician there, who is able to heal all our maladies, to forgive upon true repentance, all our sins, and to love us freely. If all were truly humbled and brought to see the necessity of having the beam cast out of our own eyes, before endeavoring to cast the mote from a brother's eye, there would be more humility, more charity, more love, more forbearance one towards another and thus feeling the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, there would be more prosperity, more joy and rejoicing in the camp, more breaking of bread from house to house—heavenly bread—by which our souls would be nourished, and more eating of our meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Did we all earnestly seek for this, and to be baptised by the one Spirit into the one body of which Christ Jesus is the head, there might still be added to the church daily, such as should be saved.

" . . . . I think it was well that the Meeting for Sufferings issued the minute in regard to missionary work. . I believe it is right for the Church to pursue a straightforward course whether all will hear or not. 'Watchman, what of the night?' It seems

necessary for the Church to give warning of the approach of danger whether the people will hear or forbear. Our eyes should not be closed to the dangers that surround us. . . . Elwood Dean."

From Barclay Stratton to Elwood Dean.

"Barnesville, Ohio, 4th Mo. 2nd, 1886.—I should hardly intrude myself on thee in this way just now, had not my wife volunteered her advice to me to write thee and tell thee to come this way and stop awhile with us. Now, although thou certainly knows thy own business best, and we should all feel to commend and recommend thee to the unerring Guide in all thy movements, yet is it not allowable to feel and to sympathize in so good a work, and even, shall I say, to mingle personally together, thus strengthening and being strengthened, each to journey forward in the work before us, whether it be in active service or in patient endurance. While we heard with satisfaction of thy prospect to attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, we were glad that coupled with it, was a concern also to visit our own flock. Weak as we are individually, and consequently collectively as an organization or Yearly Meeting, we occupy a most important position in the ranks of those who are especially called to raise and support a standard for the truth, the unchanging truth as it is in Jesus, and as professed by all true Friends.

"The strange confession of 'Non-Belief' published by the 'Select Meeting' of the Binns body has awakened an honest enquiry, which together with departures in the same direction, throughout the Society, more or less apparrent, has raised in many a curiosity, and I trust in a goodly number (what if seven thousand) a concern to know where we are, where the old Yearly Meeting now stands as regards its support of the fundamental principles of the gospel, and of the precious testimonies inseparable therefrom. The eyes, therefore, not only of organized bodies, but of individuals throughout the Society, are now fixed upon us. Therefore, not only for our own sakes, but that we may not be a stumbling block to others, we are loudly called upon at this time to show to those around, even the curious multitude, what is our faith by our works. I feel that language is feeble to express the concern we should feel, to be found inquiring for the 'Old paths' and concerned to walk therein. That, amidst weaknesses, there remains a goodly number of such, I cannot but hope, and that they may be strengthened is my sincere desire. \* \* \* \* My dear wife joins in love, Barclay Stratton."

In the spring of 1886, having been liberated to attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and some of the meetings belonging thereto, also some meetings within the limits of Ohio Yearly Meeting, and appoint some meetings amongst those not members of our Society, he,

accompanied by his wife, was in attendance at the opening session, of which he writes:

"Second day morning the Yearly Meeting-for business commenced. It was an interesting and instructive occasion. The minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings were read and much unity was expressed with its proceedings. A few objected to the minute of advice on mission work wishing Friends left at liberty, but the large body of the meeting stood firm and united on the ancient ground, many of the younger part uniting with their elder brethren in support of the ancient testimony, which was comforting to witness.

"On Sixth day, the 23rd, the Yearly Meeting closed, and I was reminded of the language of George Fox, where he said, 'Let all your men's and women's meetings be held in the power of the Lord, for the power of the Lord God is the authority for all your men's and women's meetings.' I believe this was the concern of many Friends, and it felt to me that the overshadowing and solemnizing presence of the great Head of the Church was vouchsafed from sitting to sitting, even to the close which was a great mercy and cause for humble and heartfelt gratitude for His goodness and merciful kindness to the children of men.

"5th Mo. 24th:—Attended North Meeting in the city, it being the day of their Monthly Meeting. Was silent in the meeting for worship, but had a relieving testimony in the business meeting, to the tenderly visited ones, who

might apprehend themselves called to the ministry, to be very careful to attend to their openings, neither to go before their Guide nor to lag behind lest they lose their way, but through faithfulness they might be preserved in the current of life and keep in the unity of the Spirit to the edification of the body and comfort of their own souls.

"6th Mo. 11, 1886: This is my birthday and completes my seventieth year. Three score and ten! The time appointed unto men. Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life. Oh that I might 'Praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.'

"7th Mo. 2nd: Attended—— meeting. Many meetings are small, but the merciful kindness of our heavenly Father is still manifested in vouchsafing His holy presence, and He is still waiting to be gracious unto all, calling unto more faithfulness and dedication unto Him. If all who were called were faithful to the call, there would be judges raised up as at the first and counsellors as at the beginning. There would be standard bearers for the truth, and a gathering to the true fold. Many would flock to the banner displayed for the truth, as doves to the windows; but 'The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things entering in, choke the

word, and it becometh unfruitful' in many—in very many, so that the ways of Zion mourn, because so few come to her solemn feasts. So few are gathered into the fold of rest and peace under the government and guidance of the good Shepherd, who said, 'I know my sheep and am known of mine. They know my voice and follow me, and a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him for they know not the voice of strangers.'

"7th Mo. 16th: Divers Friends came in to bid us farewell. Way opened for a comfortable parting season, the language presenting, 'Be still and know that I am God.' More followed, and our hearts were solemnized together. We had a sweet and solmen parting with the family in the morning, some others coming in besides J. E.'s family at reading time. Exhortation and supplication closed the opportunity.

"Arrived at the home of B. L.'s in the evening, lodged there and on the 18th sat down with them and a number of neighbors who came in to sit with us at their usual meeting. And He who had promised to be with the two or three who were met in His name, deigned to be present with us, and we were comforted together and testimony was borne to His unfailing goodness and mercies, to those who desire to worship Him in humility and Godly fear. Thanksgiving and praise be unto Him who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, who



are worthy forever and forever, amen.

"Came to Salem, Ohio, on the 19th, and visited the meetings composing that Quarter, many of the sittings being times of favor. Visited our old home at Augusta. Went into all the different rooms of the house we used to occupy. It was uninhabited and looked desolate. I walked over the farm, and it brought to my remembrance the days of my childhood and youth, and the many happy days spent there when the family was unbroken, but tears were ready to flow when I was afresh reminded that so many loved ones had gone to that place whence no traveler returns.

'8th Mo. 23rd: We arrived at home in time for our Monthly Meeting. I returned my minute with the information that I had accomplished the service for which I was liberated to the peace and relief of my own mind, so far as way opened at the present time. At home, sweet home once more, and our hearts are filled with thankfulness, for the kindness of our dear friends wherever we came, or wherever our lot was cast, and above all for the merciful kindness of our heavenly Father whose tender mercies are over all His works."

This was the last trip that Elizabeth Dean made with her beloved husband, with whom she was closely united in Christian fellowship. The infirmities of age made rapid progress, and in the Third Month, 1887, her helpful and devot-

ed spirit was released from its earthly tabernacle to join, we reverently trust, with the spirits of just men made perfect, in celebrating the name of Him whom it was her desire to serve.

Under date of 4th Mo. 6th, 1887, Elwood writes to his friend J. W.

“Chesterhill, Ohio. Dear Friend:—I received thy kind and sympathizing letters a few days since, which I must appreciate, as I felt and do feel the separation and bereavement much. We have lived together in much harmony for nearly fifty years—the 30th of next Eleventh Month would have completed that term. But the hope and belief that her work was accomplished and her peace made, brings me to where I desire to feel resignation and could not wish her again to have to encounter the trials, the conflicts and tribulations of this probationary state, believing that my great loss is her eternal gain. And Oh, for preservation the few remaining days allotted me here on earth! My pilgrimage must be well nigh ended. A few more years at most must close the scene, and if I am saved, it will be all of mercy and no merit of mine. The dear departed one was an excellent counsellor, a loving and sympathizing friend and cheerful companion, a great comfort and true helpmeet to me. I believe I might adopt the language of Job, ‘The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’ She was a firm believer in the doctrines and testi-

monies held by faithful Friends from the beginning, and earnestly desired their support, believing it was simply primitive Christianity revived. With love to thee and thy dear wife, E. D."

Letter from P. W. R.

"Elwood Dean, Dear Friend: We have been introduced into near and tender sympathy with thee, hearing of the removal by death of thy beloved companion. We have heard but little of the particulars. Glad to hear that thee was at home, and I thought of Daniel Wheeler and what he said in a letter to his children when his dear wife was taken to her eternal rest: 'The beloved and precious partner of all my joys and sorrows has passed not from life to death but from death unto life eternal.' And I trust, dear friend, thou can adopt a similar language and that the everlasting Arms of love and mercy are underneath for thy support, and will enable thee to finish the work thou mayest yet have to do, and when a few more conflicts are endured will gather thee also into His kingdom of rest and peace where we believe she has been safely gathered as a shock of corn fully ripe for the heavenly garner. \* \* \* \*"

From Elwood Dean to J. S. E.

"9th Mo. 4th, 1887. Dear Friend: I received thy kind and welcome letter in due time, enquiring after my welfare, etc., and it should

have been answered long ere this, but my apology must be—inability, (so little of interest) to write, often feeling very poor, and unworthy of the least of the Lord's mercies, and my health poor, often feeble and discouraged, feeling lonely and bereft of my greatest earthly stay and comfort. Yet I do not wish to murmur nor complain, for I am blessed with far more than I am worthy of. Yet that lonely feeling, and my great loss and bereavement often comes over me with almost overwhelming force, yet not so but that I am at times favored to feel that the Lord's mercies are over all His works, and that 'He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.' And the comforting presence of His love is at times felt to renew the spiritual strength, faith, hope and courage to press forward toward the mark, still hoping, though mercy, to be enabled to obtain the prize in the end. What would become of such poor mortals if it were not for our strength and faith being renewed from time to time, by the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost? We would indeed sink into despondency if it were not that His mercies are renewed from season to season, with the evidence of forgiveness and acceptance.. This, with His love flowing toward Southland enabled me to propose holding a meeting there recently, for the few Friends there, with an invitation to those not members. It was well attended and proved a satisfactory and relieving opportunity to my mind. That

is the only public meeting I have held this summer, but have frequently had a word for other meetings of our Quarter, but have felt excused from going much abroad.

"I have often remembered your affectionate kindness to my dear departed companion and my self, when sojourning amongst you. His 'loving kindness is better than life,' and may He reward you with His love and protecting care, and preserve our souls alive in time of famine, spiritual famine, when we feel to be poor and needy, our souls ready to faint by the way. Then let us remember His precious promise: 'When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.' These things will He do for his humble, dependent children, and those who feel that they have none in heaven but Him, and none in the earth that they desire in comparison with Him. He will never leave nor forsake these, but will keep them as the apple of His eye, feed them with the bread of life, guide and protect them even unto the end, and crown them with eternal life. Elwood Dean."

"4th Mo. 18th. Joseph Walton, Dear Friend: I have been expecting to write to thee all winter, but other things have intervened

and crowded it out until now. I have done but very little writing, and have spent most of the time at home. I took a journey to the meetings of Salem and Stillwater Quarters, and appointed one meeting a few miles south of Chesterfield, among those not of our Society, all of which was attended with the reward of peace. I felt richly rewarded for what seemed like an evening sacrifice. I have missed my dear companion more than words can tell. My heart so fully trusted in her, when she was removed it seemed almost as though the staff and stay of my life were gone from me. But no doubt all was done in best wisdom, and for a wise purpose. \* \* \* \*

He was surrounded by kind relatives and friends who offered him a home, but the ties that bound him to his own were strong, and he says, "I have felt so much of a desire to occupy my own dear little home that I have made arrangements to go to housekeeping after Yearly Meeting. Brother B's widow, Ann Dean, will come and take the management, if all is well." She proved to be a helpful companion to him, trying to animate and enliven his lonely life. His health became more feeble and he was not much from home in religious service, though his communications in his own meeting were lively and acceptable

Ann Dean writes: "5th Mo. 6th, 1888. Brother Elwood's health is somewhat improved since the weather has become more

settled, though he frequently has dizzy spells, more especially when he undertakes to write, which is the main cause of his not answering his letters more promptly, but it is a great pleasure to him to receive letters from his friends: so write often if they do not get answered promptly."

In the Eighth Month of 1888 he was married to Edna Peebles, whose loving and tender care of him was much appreciated, and very consoling to him during the last two years of his life. In speaking of her in a letter dated 4th Month 1st, 1889, he says, "My dear companion is very affectionate and sympathizing, and is a great comfort to me, doing all that a loving companion can for my relief and comfort in this time of affliction."

In the Second Month, 1889, he was stricken with paralysis, losing almost entirely the use of his left side. He bore his affliction with Christian patience, expressing a feeling that he had done but little to advance that cause which was nearest his heart, viz., "That cause which is dignified by immortality and crowned with eternal life." He said at one time that his life had been to little purpose, expressing the thought that he might yet become a castaway, that we have no power of ourselves to appropriate the promises unless they are opened to us thus relying entirely on the mercies of a crucified, risen and glorified Lord.

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His disease gradually increasing, weakened the body, but we reverently believe the Everlasting Arms were underneath, sustaining his exercised spirit, which was released from its tenement of clay on the 6th of Seventh Month, 1890, to join the "spirits of just men made perfect," leaving to his friends the earnest legacy, "Follow me as I have endeavored to follow Christ."

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT MILHOUSE  
CONCERNING ELWOOD DEAN.**

I was intimately acquainted with Elwood Dean, we being members of the same Quarterly Meeting. I may say I loved him and believe he was truly a humble follower of his Divine Master. It was his lot to travel much from home in the service of the ministry, and I believe he was careful on all occasions to wait for the fresh anointing from on High, which is the source of all true gospel ministry. In the latter years of his useful life he was deprived of the privilege for a considerable length of time by a disorder of a paralytic nature, of assembling with his Friends in a meeting capacity, a privilege he highly prized when of ability to do so.

Through his last illness he was often much tried with feelings of desertion and poverty of spirit, feeling at seasons as though the Divine favor was withdrawn from him, which seemed



for a length of time to prevail. I was frequently with him through his afflictions and I believe there remained through all a precious evidence to the contrary, and that he was under the immediate care and protection of Isreal's unslumbering Shepherd whose favor remained unbroken. Through all his trials and deep provings his interest in the welfare and prosperity of our beloved Society seemed unabated, as he frequently expressed to me when in his company.

I had not the opportunity of being present with him in his last moments, but the testimony I have received is that he passed away very quietly, and we believe peacefully, and has been gathered, as we humbly trust, as a shock of corn in its season into the heavenly garner. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, sayeth the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." I attended his funeral which was a solemn and instructive season, and I believe was favored with the overshadowing of the Father's love, bearing evidence, we humbly believe, that all is well with the dear departed. I was much comforted in witnessing the plainness and simplicity of the coffin and all appertaining thereto.

Since our dear friend has been taken from us, although I do not presume to undertake to fathom the works of infinite Wisdom, this solemn impression seem to rest upon my mind:

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That we may accept the suffering he passed through and the seeming desertion, as an example to show us all that we truly have nothing to glory in, except it be our infirmities; and that however favored we may have been through our pilgrimage, it is all of the mercies of God in Christ Jesus, and my desire is that this feeling may more and more prevail throughout the whole heritage of the Lord, for all good emanates from Him.

**ROBERT MILHOUSE.**

Pennsville, Morgan Co., Ohio.







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